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(54) Title: METHOD OF GENETIC MODIFICATION OF A WILD TYPE VIRAL SEQUENCE

(57) Abstract

The present invention concerns a method of genetic modification of a TGB–3 wild type viral sequence for reducing or suppressing the possible deleterious effects of the agronomic properties of a transformed plant or plant cell by said TGB–3 viral sequence, comprising the following successive steps: submitting said sequence to point mutation(s) which allow the substitution of at least one amino–acid into a different amino–acid; selecting genetically modified TGB–3 wild type viral sequences having said point mutation(s) and which are not able to promote cell–to–cell movement of a mutant virus having a dysfunctional TGB–3 wild type viral sequence, when expressed in trans from a replicon; further selecting among said genetically modified TGB–3 viral sequences, the specifically genetically modified sequence which inhibits infection with a co–inoculated wild type virus when the mutant form was expressed from a replicon; and recovering said specifically genetically modified TGB–3 viral sequence.